10th December 1923]

A.—The only large irrigation scheme in the Coimbatore district under consideration is the Siruvani scheme. It is connected with the scheme for the water-supply of the Coimbatore town. An estimate for the irrigation channel has been received from the Superintending Engineer.

About four schemes in the Kollegal taluk are also under investigation by local officers, details of which have already been furnished to the hon. Member. A report on the Hebbehalla scheme has been received from the Superintending Engineer, but he is investigating an alternative scheme for the construction of a high level channel for the supply to the Kollegal tank. Till the Superintending Engineer's further report is received and the scheme is considered, it is not proposed to make further investigations of the two schemes for a separate channel from the Gundal and for improvements to the Doddaranganatham supply channel. In regard to the Uduthuraihalla project, gauge readings are still being taken to determine the supply available in the river.

As estimates have not been drawn up, no information regarding approximate cost can be furnished and it is not possible to say at this stage when they can be taken up for execution.

The Cauvery-Mettur project.

7 Q.—Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) in what stage the Cauvery-Mettur project scheme is at present;

(*b*) whether the Secretary of State has passed final orders on the matter; and

(*c*) whether the Government have any intention of beginning the working of the project in the near future; and if so, when?

A.—The Government of India have said that as soon as a satisfactory settlement has been arrived at between the Madras and Mysore Governments regarding the Mysore-Kannambadi reservoir, they will be prepared to give the Mettur project their careful and immediate attention. An agreement between the two Governments has not yet been reached, but efforts are still being made to come to a settlement which will, it is hoped, be reached shortly. The revision of the Mettur project estimate so as to allow for increase in the cost of labour, materials, etc., since it was last sent up to the Government of India has been taken up and the revised estimates are almost ready.

As the project estimate requires the sanction of the Secretary of State, it cannot be stated when its execution will be taken up.

The Raja of Ramnad:—" May I ask the hon. the Law Member whether the proposed projects depend upon the passing of the Irrigation Law?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar:—" Yes."